

STEPS TO TAKE IF YOUR VEHICLE HAS BEEN BROKEN INTO:

- 1.) Try not to touch the vehicle.
(Fingerprints may have been left
by perpetrator.)
- 2.) Try to recall all items which were
stolen.
- 3.) Call Montgomery County Police
at 301-279-8000. (NOTE: The
report may be taken over the phone,
but it is always important to report
the crime.)
- 4.) If an officer will be dispatched
to your location, please wait for
his/her arrival.

Important Phone Numbers

District Community Services Officers

Bethesda.....301-657-0119
Germantown.....301-840-2650
Rockville.....301-279-1438
Silver Spring.....301-565-5761
Wheaton.....240-773-5524

Central Auto Theft Unit

301-421-5443

INFORMATION REQUESTED WHEN REPORTING A SUSPICIOUS SITUATION

⇒ Description of person:

Age
Race
Sex
Height & Weight
Clothing
Other distinguishing characteristics
(facial hair, tatoos, glasses, etc.)

⇒ Description of Vehicle:

License number
Make
Model
Color
Other distinguishing
characteristics (damage, dirty,
etc.)
Direction of travel

⇒ What occurred:

Provide as detailed account as
possible of the incident

⇒ Where did incident occur:

Provide specific street numbers
when possible or where you will
meet an officer in a parking lot, etc.

Police Emergency—911

Non-Emergency—301-279-8000



Montgomery County, Maryland
Department of Police

Prevent Theft From Vehicles



**"If They can See it,
They can Steal it."**

Secure It!

Special Operations Division
Community Outreach Section
301-840-2585

Theft from Vehicles

Many residents and visitors to Montgomery County are victims of the growing problem of theft of property from vehicles and the theft of parts from vehicles (tires, mirrors, etc.).

The vast majority of these thefts are preventable. Here are some recommendations to reduce the chance that the thief will choose your car, truck, van, etc.



Leaving valuables in your vehicle is just the opportunity a thief is looking for.

- **Lock your doors and close the windows completely**

— An open door or window is an invitation to take any property in your vehicle.

- **Remove valuables from vehicle or lock them in the trunk where they are out of sight**

— Leaving valuables in view from the outside is just the opportunity a thief is looking for.

- **Do not leave electronic devices or accessories visible**

—A cigarette lighter plug or cassette adapter are tell-tale signs there are valuables in the car. Also replace the cigarette lighter when exiting the vehicle.

- **Report any suspicious persons to the Police**

—If you observe activity which may be criminal in nature, immediately report it to the police.

- **Do not leave money in your vehicle**

—A thief will break into your vehicle even for a small amount of change.

- **Park in your garage (if you have one)**

—If you have a garage at your house, use it; if a thief cannot get to your car he cannot break into it. (We also have many cases, where a thief removes a garage door opener from an unlocked vehicle and then enters the home.)

- **Do not hide a key on your vehicle**

—A potential thief could see you hide the key, and then use your key to gain entry into your vehicle

- **Record serial numbers of any equipment you install or carry in your vehicle**

—This will assist the police in investigating the theft and will help in recovering your property. (Note: The Operation Identification Program, which includes engraving all theft prone items with your driver's license number is also suggested..)

- **Park in well lighted, populated areas**



—If a thief believes he may be caught they are less likely to take the chance of targeting your vehicle.

- **Install an anti-theft device that has a visible indicator.**

—A flashing light or stickers informing a thief of a device may be enough to deter a potential thief from selecting your vehicle.

- **Install a "Tapered" door lock**

—A door lock that does not have a "head" that can be pulled up by a coat hanger. (available in most auto parts stores)

Items Frequently Stolen From Vehicles

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| • Cellular Phones | • Purses/wallets |
| • Money | • CD Players |
| • Briefcases | • CD's |
| • Clothing | • Laptop Computers |
| | • Sporting equipment |